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CITY PAGES

April 22-28, 2020 VOLUME 40 | NUMBER 2055





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ISSN 0744-0456. City Pages is published weekly by Star Tribune Media Company, LLC. City Pages is located at 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. City Pages is available free of charge, limited to one copy per reader. Additional copies of the current issue may be purchased at the City Pages office for \$1, payable in advance. No person may, without prior written permission of City Pages, take more than one copy of each City Pages weekly issue. Subscriptions are available for \$100 per year. Subscription orders must include check or money order payable to City Pages, and should be mailed to City Pages Subscriptions, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55488. Periodicals postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Postmaster: Send address changes to City Pages, 650 3rd Ave. S., Ste. 1300, Minneapolis, MN 55489.

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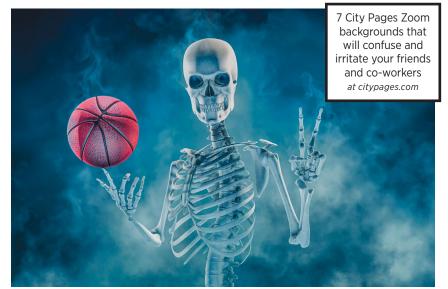
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Minneapolis, MN

THE SHORTLIST



THE STAT SHEET

18 months

Walz's latest estimate for business disruptions in the state

200,000

Subarus being recalled due to a fuel tank problem in cars and SUVs

61,000

MN chickens euthanized after egg demand changed

19

Employees at JBS pork plant in Worthington who tested positive for coronavirus, shuttering the plant

"I haven't even worn socks for two weeks."

Reader Clint Hovde responds to "I've worn jeans every day I've worked from home" at citypages.com

GROCERY SCORE

CUB ALREADY HAS 13 24-hour stores in Minnesota, and as demand for groceries stays strong they're adding 11 more. The chain had cut back hours at all locations when the COVID-19 outbreak began, but stores like the one in Uptown returned to all-hours shopping in mid-March. "Consumers expect grocery stores to be there for them, and in times of a natural disaster, we're the last to close and the first to open," Mike Stigers, chief executive of Cub, told the Star Tribune. The hope is that this'll make it easier for shoppers to practice social distancing as they restock on snacks and staples.

POPULAR STORIES

AT CITYPAGES.COM

Minneapolis police commander who put 'OFFENSIVE' SHIRT on Facebook demoted

Bloomington bike parts company QBP, the country's largest, LAYS OFF 88 in mass video call

> **MASTER P's Minneapolis:** How'd the hip-hop mogul wind up living here?

'LIBERATE MINNESOTA' rally to protest coronavirus order, 'anti-American governor,' science, reason

> Drone footage of **EMPTY DOWNTOWN** Minneapolis is making us cry

PAVED OVER

Bikers watch the trail they didn't want take shape

he Minnesota River Bottoms trail has been a source of joy for bikers and nature lovers for years.

It's 12 miles of shaded dirt paths, grasslands, and waterways, kept up by the efforts of the mountain bike community.

It's also a source of conflict. The state has been trying to turn the trail into a paved path that connects the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and the Bloomington Ferry Bridge. Some of the people who love the trail the most think that's a bad idea.

Dennis Porter, a biker and Bloomington resident, started Save the River Bottoms in an attempt to stop the paving project. He sees the trail as a rare patch of natural beauty.

He might be fighting a losing battle. The trail has been under construction since last summer. That is, some of the trail. The initial \$2 million allotment by the state Legislature paid for only two miles of progress. And after a record-breaking flood year, most of it has been underwater about half the time.

The city of Bloomington clarifies that this section of trail was chosen in order to eventually create an eight-mile loop including the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and the I-35W bridge, which connect to the Minnesota River Greenway.

Porter worries the new trail will be impossible to maintain, and about the total cost of the project and who will foot the bill.

"There is no current funding for the remaining paved trail in Bloomington," a recent post on Save the River Bottoms reads. "Additional funding would need to be approved at the State Capitol by lawmakers."

This has critics raising eyebrows.

"Especially with what's going on now [coronavirus]," Save the River Bottoms member Stephanie Johnson says. "There's no way they're going to be giving more money for this."

The argument on behalf of paving the trail has largely been accessibility. The dirt paths may be fine for mountain bikers, but not so much for wheelchair users. Ann



Lenczewski, Bloomington's former state representative, has been the project's biggest champion since 2013, when she authored legislation appropriating that initial \$2.5 million to pave the trail.

Porter and his allies argue there are already plenty of accessible trails in the area. But back in 2014, Lenczewski told the Star Tribune that opponents couldn't "stop it," that "the money [had] been given to complete the trail." That wasn't exactly true. Phase one alone—those first two miles, still in progress-ended up getting a low bid of \$3.16 million.

Lenczewski went on to resign abruptly

in 2015. The following month, the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, which pushes for paved trails, announced it had retained her to bend ears at the Capitol.

A few years later, this same, seemingly niche issue nearly derailed the Legislature when Republicans tried to remove Lenczewski's previous stipulation that the new trail be paved. A 12-mile stretch of woodsy riverbank has proven to be a political bugbear for the entire state.

Porter and the rest of the Save the River Bottoms crew want a full, detailed plan from the DNR, including cost estimates and where the money will come from. -HANNAH JONES

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This story contains references to sexual assault and suicide.

I. THE POISON TREE

hen Alex Heineman was 16 years old, he stole off into the woods behind the Hudson YMCA with a girl he liked.

It was an unseasonably warm May evening, and the YMCA had thrown a special night out for the local teenagers. They ditched their friends, ducked past the skate park, and meandered through the dark toward a playground called Castle Park.

Heineman was a quiet kid with a gangly athlete's build, jet black hair that stood straight up, and a slightly sunken gaze. He had learning disabilities that relegated him to the high-functioning end of the autism spectrum and a lower rung of Hudson High's social food chain.

Home was a disaster. His mother had him young. His biological father was a nonfactor, but his stepfather hated the sight of him. They couldn't coexist under the same roof. Heineman was forced to live with his grandparents across town while his mother and stepfather waged a tumultuous divorce and custody battle over his two younger half-siblings. He ran away all the time.

Family strife made Heineman prone to angry outbursts, which didn't ingratiate him to many people at school. He was a gym rat who spent most of his time playing pickup basketball at the YMCA. The staff there had made a point to befriend him. The manager, seeing potential in want of opportunity, hired him to coach peewee sports.

The girl he was with that night was a 15-year-old from Osceola. She was another poor kid from a broken home, born to a meth-addicted mother who abandoned her in infancy. Her paternal grandparents adopted her when she was small.

They were similar that way, and shared an on-again, off-again attraction ever since they met through mutual friends. Discreetly, they followed the bike path through the woods. They kissed. He left a conspicuous hickey on her neck. Then they returned to the YMCA and parted ways.

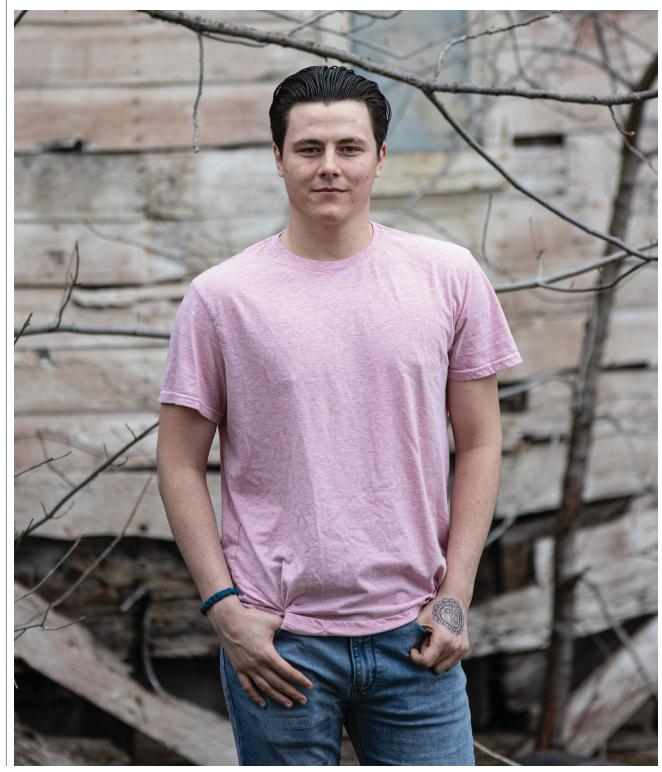
Forty minutes later, the girl's biological father told police that his daughter had been assaulted.

According to the criminal complaint, the girl said she and Heineman started kissing consensually, but then he grabbed her shoulders with both hands, pushed her forcefully to the ground, and kissed her neck and chest without permission. At one point, he put his hand down her pants and fingered her against her will. She fought to push him off, the girl claimed.

She went to the hospital, where the hickies on her neck were swabbed for DNA that

The Boy They Called WOLF

Alex Heineman was cleared of rape. Why is he still a pariah in his hometown? — BY SUSAN DU





would eventually match Heineman. She turned down a vaginal exam and declined to write a statement.

The next day, Hudson Police called Heineman in to talk.

His story started out the same as the girl's. However, he vehemently denied forcing anything on her, and claimed he never put his fingers in her vagina.

Nevertheless, Heineman was soon charged with second-degree sexual assault, a felony punishable by 20 years in prison.

II. FIGHT AND FLIGHT

Kristin Heineman, Alex's mother, asked him if it were possible he misread the girl's signals, given his autism. He'd struggled with interpreting social connotations all his life. And though she believed him when he swore he hadn't coerced the girl, the prospect of 20 years' imprisonment was unfathomable.

She urged him to follow his public defender's advice to plead guilty to a lesser charge of third-degree sexual assault.

"I felt horrible about that," she says now. "Maybe we should have done more. Maybe we could have done something different."

Defense lawyer Christopher Petros—who'd been suspended from practicing law in Minnesota and publicly reprimanded in Wisconsin for failing to adequately represent paying clients—did not respond to City Pages' request for comment.

Heineman's conviction triggered a cascade of collateral consequences that derailed his life.

He dropped out of school, registered as a sex offender, and was ordered to undergo treatment at the Eau Claire Academy, a minimum security facility for teens with mental illness. Once separated from family, he deteriorated rapidly. Like many people with autism, he was hypersensitive to harsh light and discordant sounds. The constant slamming of doors rattled his nerves. An untreated cavity decayed in his mouth.

Kristin kept money in Heineman's commissary for daily phone calls home. On holidays she'd pack up her younger children, make a special meal, and sit with him in a locked room.

Heineman made no progress in treatment. In the world of correctional therapy, an unrepentant sex offender lacks the self-awareness required for reform—a Catch 22 for the wrongfully convicted. Kristin told him to take the path of least resistance and cooperate with his psychologist, but he was defiant. He didn't understand why he was there. Yet no one believed him when he protested his innocence.

One day Heineman pushed past the unlocked doors of the Eau Claire Academy and ran into the icy Chippewa River, where he tried to drown himself.

"I could run out the door real quick," he recalls. "They chase you down in the van. But I ran and I was like, 'Screw this, no



JAN AND DON BUCHHOLZ

one cares about me.' I was in a dark spot. I started going in the freezing cold river, and I got almost halfway and I couldn't move." Staff fished him out.

Later he brawled with another boy who kept kicking the leg of his desk in class. They exchanged insults. Heineman slugged him in the face hard enough to warrant stitches and a misdemeanor for battery.

No other school would take him after that. He was transferred to Lincoln Hills, a notorious juvenile prison in Irma, Wisconsin. Alex Heineman at 15, not long before he was accused of rape.

Street in Eau Claire. His roommates were were grown men in their 30s who scared him. The terms of his probation required he apply for jobs, but he'd never had to do that on his own before and didn't know where to start.

"No one told me it's a group home for sex offenders," Heineman recalls. "There were creepy guys that lived with me. Multiple

"I ran and I was like, 'Screw this, no one cares about me.' I was in a dark spot. I started going in the freezing cold river."

By the time Heineman arrived there in May 2018, Lincoln Hills had been under criminal investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice going on three years. Authorities exposed an epic tale of abuse. Guards broke inmates' arms, psychologists destroyed rape reports, and nurses ignored medical emergencies. Wisconsin has since paid more than \$25 million to settle lawsuits from inmates including a boy who had toes amputated after staff slammed his foot in a door, and another who was stripped naked as punishment. The prison was eventually ordered to close by 2021.

Heineman fought with other inmates and tried to kill himself half a dozen times, the circumstances of which he hasn't shared with anybody. After a month, he was hospitalized at the Mendota Mental Health Institute in Madison.

On his 18th birthday, Heineman was released to a halfway house on Randall

of them were meth addicts. I didn't do no meth. Like these guys would offer me shit."

"So I was dumb. And I was like, 'You know what, I can't do this group home anymore."

Within 10 days, he cut off his GPS ankle bracelet, threw it in a bush, and went to couch-surf with a friend in Chippewa Falls. No one came for him. A few days later he realized he couldn't live on his own and turned himself in.

Heineman refused to go back to the house on Randall Street and opted to serve nine months in the Eau Claire County Jail instead. He was allowed work release in the morning, but had to return to jail each night to sleep in a cell. One day he just walked off.

Police caught up with Heineman in Virginia, Minnesota, where he'd gone to stay with another friend. For leaving the state without apprising law enforcement, he was convicted of "failure to update sexual offense

registry" as well as "escape" - both felonies.

While Heineman's original conviction of third-degree sexual assault was a juvenile matter and therefore confidential, these charges were very public. WQOW News 18, Eau Claire's ABC affiliate, broadcast his sullen, acne-dappled mugshot under the banner, "SEX OFFENDER FACES NEW CHARGES." The screenshot journeyed across Heineman's hometown of Hudson via Snapchat.

III. A TARDY CONFESSION

In June 2019, a woman who volunteered as a mentor for disadvantaged youth at the Kinship of Polk County called the Hudson Police Department to report 18-year-old Sierrah Parmeter of Osceola might have falsely accused Alex Heineman of rape.

According to police reports, Parmeter told the mentor she had sex with a boy who wasn't her boyfriend, so she was planning to accuse him of rape in order to save her relationship.

The mentor thought of the Hudson incident two years prior and asked Parmeter if it had really happened as she claimed. Parmeter allegedly admitted it wasn't a true story.

Reports say the mentor then informed Parmeter's grandmother, who was already aware of this new revelation but hadn't come forward. The grandmother said she had consulted Parmeter's social worker Bobbie Jo Mallery, who worked for St. Croix County, about what to do. Mallery allegedly suggested letting it "lie." The mentor could not.

Mallery, a mandated reporter, did not respond to requests for comment.

Hudson Police interviewed Parmeter. According to the report, she said she and Heineman had been planning to have sex when they went for a walk in the woods on May 5, 2017.

They made out. He started giving her a hickey, and at one point stuck his hand down her pants. She told him to stop, so he did and walked away. She said he never pushed her.

"Sierrah told me she knows right from wrong, but that she knew when he was found guilty that nothing had happened, but she felt like she had to go through with everything after reporting it," the detective wrote.

Parmeter's grandmother told police that her granddaughter underwent psychological testing in 2018 to determine why she acts like a child. She blamed Parmeter's behavior on her mother's meth use while pregnant, and the neglect she suffered living in a violent home for the first six weeks of her life before the grandmother obtained custody.

According to the report, the grandmother said it was shortly after this testing that Parmeter began telling people how she'd made up the story about Heineman.





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*The FDA and EPA both recognize the effectiveness and safety of this active ingredient



The following month, the St. Croix County District Attorney's Office moved to vacate Heineman's sexual assault conviction due to actual innocence. Circuit Court Judge Scott Needham apologized. At last, Heineman was scrubbed from the sex offender registry.

IV. GUILTY BY GOSSIP

When Don and Jan Buchholz settled in Hudson in the 1970s, it was just a small, scenic river town of 5,000. He was a Navy submariner. She taught home economics. The two also ran the historic 300-seat Hudson Theatre on Locust Street and dabbled in local campaigns. The Buchholzes raised three children in Hudson, including Kristin Heineman. Alex Heineman is their grandson.

Jan, a scrapbooker, has compiled volumes of photo albums depicting Heineman's unlikely life. He struggled with literacy up through the 10th grade, but had gifts in other areas. At eight years old he started flying two-seat propeller planes. He also had perfect pitch, which was useful in his choir and Mandarin classes.

Each summer the grandparents took Heineman and his siblings on exuberant excursions to Branson, Missouri and Wisconsin Dells. In their photos, he looks clear-eyed and carefree.

"The boy we sent in didn't come out. I'm not saying he's irrevocably changed, but he could be," says Don. "I don't think so because there's this inner strength that kid has. And he's finding his way, but it's taken so long."

Heineman left the system a hardened 19-year-old with the body of a grown man and the wisdom of a high school sophomore. For six months he wouldn't leave the house. All he'd do was sleep, refusing to say what happened to him.

It didn't matter that he'd been cleared in court. In Hudson, Heineman couldn't shake the reputation of a sex offender. The town became a prison.

People called him from blocked numbers and sent him hate mail from fake Facebook accounts. He deleted his social media. Still strangers came to the door. Someone hurled a slushie at him out of a moving car as he jogged around the neighborhood. At Booster Days, downtown Hudson's Fourth of July carnival, a man shouldered into his face, looking for a fight. Recently he went into Arby's with a friend, and the server pursed her lips and said, "You know he raped a 13-year-old right?"

Kristin Heineman says her friends didn't want their families around hers. Once she took her son downtown for lunch, and somebody yelled, "Child molester!" across a crowded street.

Don says there have been times he'd drive with Heineman and people would flip off the car or scream profanities. Clearing brush in the yard, teenagers would come and threaten to beat him up.

Recently retired Hudson Police Sgt. Glen Hartman says in his 26 years on the force, he's never seen a rape case as strange as Heineman's. It's the opposite scenario for which law enforcement is usually criticized—untested rape kits backed up by the thousands, police insensitivity, and prosecutorial indifference.

Hartman is still haunted by having to tell a woman a couple years back, when the state finally tested her rape exam, that her attacker could have been arrested 10 years prior.

What happened to Heineman was a real outlier, Hartman says. It was the sort of thing he fears for real victims of rape—the rare false accusation that nevertheless looms large in the minds of people looking for reasons to disbelieve women.

Over the past year, many reports of harassment from Heineman's family came across his desk.

It's not really cops' job to shake the public of their strongly held misinformation, Hartman says. But occasionally he'd drop by and talk to Heineman because as his depression spiraled, "The last thing we want to see happen is have him hurt himself, and to have to respond to that."

"Alex was treated terribly by obviously people in the public and frankly by law enforcement officers," Hartman says. "And of course you're marked. It's the thing books are made of."

Three large millstones deprived Heineman of a real reset.

First, while the local news broadcast his charges, no one ever bothered to report his exoneration. Half a year later, Googling "Alexander Heineman" would still lead to WQOW's story calling him a sex offender. The station removed the story in February only after Heineman threatened to sue, and then the Google image of his mugshot remained online for another month.

Next, because Heineman's original conviction was a juvenile matter, it's still sealed from public eyes. Anyone attempting to do a rudimentary background check on the Wisconsin Circuit Courts website won't find any information about his sexual assault conviction—including how it was overturned.

What they will find are Heineman's adult felonies for "escape" and "failure to update sex offender registry," which imply he's a rapist even though he's no longer on the registry.

In September 2019, St. Croix County Assistant District Attorney Karl Anderson sent a letter to his counterpart in Eau Claire County, asking that Heineman's Eau Claire conviction for violating the sex offender registry be vacated as well.

"The victim in our case has since recanted and admitted it was a false allegation," Anderson wrote. "While Mr. Heineman is still technically guilty of failing to comply with the sex offender registry, I



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768 Hamline Ave S | St. Paul, MN 55116 651-523-7170 | cybervillageacademy.org believe the interest of justice would call for his conviction to be vacated; but for the false allegation, he would never have been on the registry."

Seven months went by. Eau Claire didn't respond.

Wisconsin Innocence Project co-director Keith Findley, an expert on wrongful convictions, says exoneration alone cannot fix all the harm that stems from miscarriage of justice.

Defendants who are totally innocent can still be convicted of ancillary charges like jumping bail and violating probation. The consequences—social ostracism, job

V. THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE

In March, Sierrah Parmeter was charged with two counts of misdemeanor defamation and one count of obstructing an officer.

Alex Heineman, now considered the victim, was invited to attend her first hearing. He brought his mother to help manage the anxiety.

"Imagine you have a bear in front of you. Your whole body's shaking and you can't move. You can't even look at the person. All that fear comes down your body. That's what it felt like," Heineman recalls.

"If she hadn't lied. I never would have had to go through any of this. I could have

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"Alex was treated terribly obviously by people in the public and frankly by law enforcement officers."

loss, public housing denial-are virtually

Findley recalls another Eau Claire case, that of Evan Zimmerman, who was cleared of murder after the Innocence Project dug up several pieces of important exonerating evidence. Nevertheless, Zimmerman couldn't get work anywhere due to his noxious reputation. Employers insisted he had to have done something wrong to get charged in the first place.

Judges are often willing to clear a record if the district attorney agrees to it, Findley says. But prosecutors are all different. One who loathes to rescind a conviction could argue Heineman was technically responsible for updating his registration at one point in time even if it's no longer relevant.

"Everything's stacked against you if you're trying to correct an injustice like this," he says. "Common sense is not always captured by the law."

Jan and Don Buchholz were convinced St. Croix's letter was merely buried on some overwhelmed Eau Claire prosecutor's desk. They compiled their grandson's court documents. They were about to drive down to the county courthouse and appeal his case in person when the coronavirus arrived in Wisconsin, forcing them to retreat to their homes.

Now they must wait.

"We'll never know all the trauma from Lincoln Hills and all the jails," says Jan. "And just the fact that all the stuff is just on hold.... It concerns me that St. Croix County hasn't pursued anything to see if they even got the letter in Eau Claire."

"But we don't want to mess it up," Don adds.

"We will still go. But why? Why us?" Jan asks. "Why doesn't the prison system take care of it?"

had a normal life. I could have been in college by now. I haven't even graduated high school because I've been in the system so long, and no one's helped me get that education I need."

Parmeter didn't respond to requests for comment. Her next appearance is scheduled for May 7 in Judge Edward Vlack's court.

City Pages requested an interview with Eau Claire Assistant District Attorney Benjamin Webster, who prosecuted Heineman for violating the sexual offender registry.

Webster eventually responded by email, saying he believed the conviction was "legally valid at the time it was entered and remains appropriate at this time," because Heineman fought in prison and ran off when he was supposed to be under supervision.

As to whether the conviction was just, Webster declined to elaborate. He wrote, "I am unable to provide details of Mr. Heineman's underlying St. Croix County case and my understanding of the specific facts and circumstances surrounding that incident as it is a juvenile matter."

As a result, Heineman gets rejected everywhere he applies for work. Walmart wouldn't take him. College is an illusory dream. His best shot is to get a GED and learn a trade, like pipefitting. But it's hard to feel motivated to do anything in a world full of closed doors.

YMCA executive director Chris Kost, who first reached out to Heineman when he was just a 15-year-old regular on the basketball court, says all his co-workers were shocked when they heard he'd been accused of sexual assault. It was so unlike the boy they knew, he says—a sad but otherwise "great kid" who hungered for purpose and a sense of self-worth.

The YMCA can't have felons working with kids. But Kost says he'd like to







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have Heineman back as a coach if he ever managed to get his secondary convictions overturned.

"Alex got a raw deal," he says. "I know there are individuals in the community who still see him as a sex offender. But people are cruel these days. They don't want to find the truth at all, in most cases. They just assume the worst about Alex. He's had that uphill battle. It's sad to see."

"[Heineman] appeared to me as a young man who had some mental challenges, but was positive, wanted to help people, gullible, and very honest," wrote YMCA staffer Daniel West in a letter to the Eau Claire District Attorney's Office. "He has been through so much already, lost two years of his life and deserves a second chance to be a high functioning part of society and our commodity without a felony on his record."

Recently Heineman went to help the Buccholzes in their yard. Don Buccholz recalls his grandson pulled him aside, broke down in tears, and started unloading some of the things he'd been through for the first time since he returned home.

Heineman's probation agent recommended he join a victim support group at the St. Croix county courthouse. The meetings helped disentangle some of his bitterness and confusion, but they're suspended now due to the coronavirus.

There was one silver lining to quarantine. Just before everything shut down, Heineman started dating a young woman he met while out in downtown Minneapolis. For a moment he had his family back, a girlfriend, and a small group of friends who'd taken the time to hear the whole story. He hoped the truth would take root in Hudson someday. But it's not something he can control.

He said this time last year, he hated Parmeter and couldn't abide why all she got were misdemeanor charges when he had to live as a felon.

"I've had a lot of people do me dirty," Heineman said. "I learned I had to move on. Why can't I just forgive some people and not hold this grudge for the rest of my life? It's just gonna hurt me back."

Things were falling into place. But then Friday morning around 3 a.m., Hudson Police talked Heineman down from the I-94 bridge connecting Minnesota and Wisconsin, where he'd been preparing to jump into the St. Croix River. He and his girlfriend had just broken up, and he still hadn't been able to find a job. He was sent to a psychiatric hospital in Amery, Wisconsin and booked under a 72-hour suicide watch.

Heineman was released to his mother Monday afternoon.

"That's the part that's hard, that he's still so fragile," Kristin Heineman says. "Normal 19-year-olds go through break-ups, but for him, things just hurt so much more. How do I protect him and still let him experience all the things that young adults experience, the good and the bad?"





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feat. The Parkway A/V Team

Saturday, April 25 | 1:00 pm Zoom Meeting with my Parents (2020) Digital Saturday Matinee

Saturday, April 25 | 8:00 pm One-Man Ms. Packman **Tournament**

Monday, April 27 | 12:00 pm **Triple-checking the Toothpick** Inventory

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LOCAL BREWERIES COLLABORATE ON EPIC WORLD-WIDE BEER BENEFIT

omething is brewing in New York, and it's rapidly spreading throughout the world. It's even reached us here in Minnesota.

This contagion, unlike That Which Shall Not Be Named, feels like a blanket of warm fuzzies and goodwill, and can be poured into a pint glass. Along with its arrival comes a positive impact in each community it touches.

And we have craft brewers to thank for this.

For the first time in... maybe all of history? the entire world is making the same beer, thanks to an open-source recipe. At last count, 613 breweries across 40 countries—including five local fixtures—are participating in a collaboration called "All Together."

St. Paul's Black Stack Brewing, Minneapolis's Modist Brewing and Wild Mind Ales, OMNI Brewing Co. in Maple Grove, as well as Revelation Ale Works in Hallock appear on the list of All Together's participants. Each day that list grows longer.

All Together IPA is made from ingredients commonly available (or easily acquirable) by most brewers, though it leaves open the door for a little creativity, too, should the mood strike.

The concept behind All Together is even bigger than uniting the world through the beauty of beer, though.

"With our taprooms and dining rooms closed to the public, we have lost our primary source of revenue. And our staff have lost their incomes.... In this industry, when one of us struggles, the rest of us pick them up," reads a message on the collaboration's official website, which hosts All Together's recipe, branding materials, and more. The message is signed, simply, "The Brewers of The World."

"The idea was pitched to us by our friends at Other Half Brewing in Brooklyn," Daniel Wellendorf, co-owner and head of marketing at Modist, told City Pages. "They basically came up with this idea."

From Modist's perspective, participating in this collab was pretty much a no-brainer. "We're looking to help out not only our workers but hospitality workers at the bars and restaurants who've supported our brand since the beginning in any way we can," explained Wellendorf.

"Logistically, we just put it into our production schedule, which you would [reasonably] assume, had opened up quite



a bit. Then the only challenge was finding a charity to donate funds to."

Since everything necessary to brew and promote All Together had been made available for free distribution, all its creators at Other Half and Stout Creative asked in return was that a portion of proceeds from the beer would be donated to hospitality professionals in their local community.

To fulfill this part of the bargain, Wellendorf reached out to Hospitality Minnesota. The organization directed his attention to The North Stands. The start-up is dedicated specifically to accepting and distributing funds to Minnesota's servers, bartenders, dishwashers, brewery staff, and more affected by the pandemic. (Proceeds from sales of All Together at Wild Mind and Black Stack will also go to The North Stands; OMNI and Revelation are backing The Silver Linings Fund.)

"It's run by a great group of people who are super excited to have us on board and it makes it all pretty easy. They need the support and this is a cool opportunity for us to chip in something."

A design developed by Stout Collective ensures the branding appears consistent across the globe, despite staggered production and roll-out dates. Modist's batch of All Together will hit retail shelves in early May.

"It will be available May 2 in our taproom," Wellendorf says. "We're going to do some crowlers of it, and then we'll do four-pack tallboys released in liquor stores on Monday the Fourth."

Though we're literally and socially distant in the here and now, All Together is building a support system for the rattled, while making it possible to know exactly what someone else very far away is clutching, tasting, and experiencing.

Beer. man...

Check in with Black Stack, OMNI, Revelation, and Wild Mind for their All Together release dates, or cruise the #AllTogether-Beer hashtag to catch a worldwide vibe that doesn't require frantically washing one's hands.—SARAH BRUMBLE

SURLY HOSTS FOOD DRIVE AT LIQUOR STORES THROUGH END OF APRIL

Most of us have encountered those infographics floating around the web that scream about how many slices of bread are in just! one! beer!

Such information ranks among the least helpful out there for a bunch of reasons, including setting up a false equivalence between beer and food. Just as some turkey and cheese pressed between a six-pack of Hamm's would never pass for a sandwich, Surly serves (quite tasty) pizza upstairs at its brewery complex for good reason.

This is also why Surly's charitable arm, Surly Gives a Damn, teamed up with local nonprofit The Food Group to capitalize on the essential nature of local liquor stores to provide meals—not beer—to hungry Minnesotans during this unprecedented time of need.

The alliance hopes to collect roughly 1,000 pounds of food—enough to make 800 meals—before April's end.

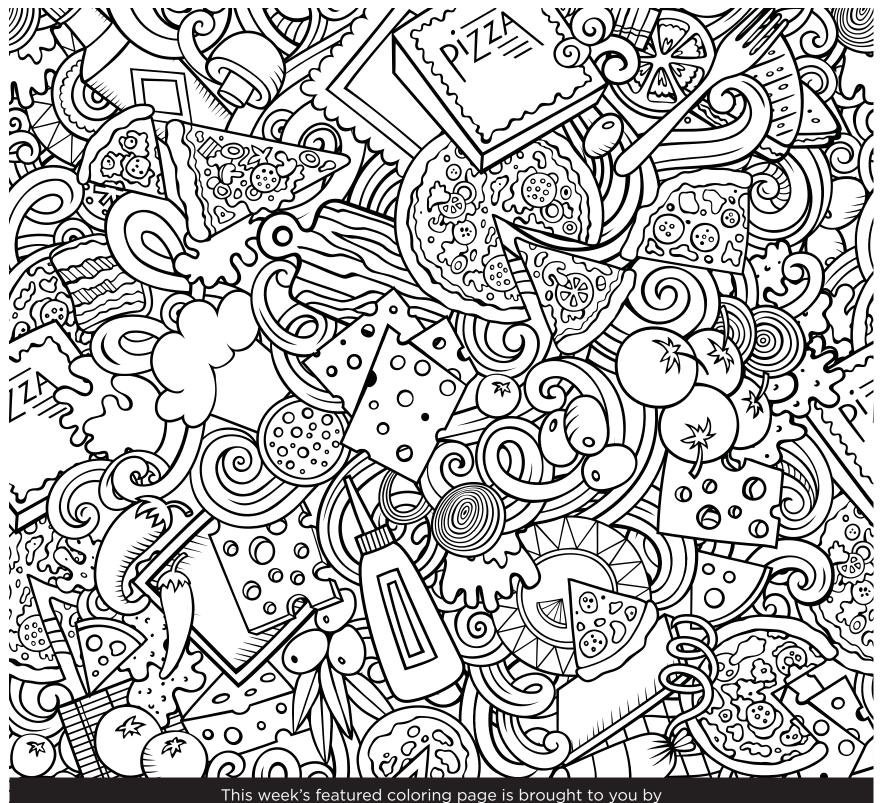
The idea involves shoppers heading to one of 10 participating liquor stores across the Twin Cities next time we replenish our liquid kitties, bringing with us food items for donation. Shoppers should drop those non-perishables in The Food Group's giant blue bins, then snap a photo of a prominent QR code on the bin.

In exchange for caring for their fellow man, participants will receive a coupon for a free pint at the Surly Beer Hall (redeemable when the mother ship's doors reopen) via that QR code.

"The need to provide meals to our community has never been greater," said Mary Sellke, executive director of Surly Gives A Damn. "We'd love to see the bins filled every day of the emergency food drive so we make sure more Minnesotans know where their next meal will come from. I know we can do this during our essential supply runs, and then by staying home."

The emergency food drive will run through the end of April. Look for donation bins at Central Avenue Liquors; Dinkytown Wine & Spirits; Elevated Beer, Wine & Spirits (Minneapolis and White Bear Lake locations); France 44 Wines & Spirits; Minnehaha Lake Wine & Spirits; Morelli's; Sentyrz Liquor & Supermarket; Stinson Wine, Beer & Spirits; and Surdyk's Liquor & Cheese Shop.

To that, we raise a glass of not-bread to... a good deed in a weary world? Cheers to giving a damn! —SARAH BRUMBLE ©





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THERE ARE NO EVENTS TO ATTEND THIS WEEK, so instead we're celebrating event-worthy TV. City Pages staffers have a wide variety of tastes, so at least one of these recs should lead you down an entertaining rabbit hole.



MUST-SEE STREAMING

Here's what we're watching from home

or many, binge watching used to be a guilty pleasure. Nowadays, it's just a way of life. Here are some examples of how we're surviving by killing time.

BRIDGETTE REINSMOEN

Copy Chief

What are you binge watching?

Derry Girls, a comedy from British network Channel 4

What's it about?

Catholic teen Erin Quinn and her friends come of age in 1990s Northern Ireland amid the Troubles. The four girls and one boy (English cousin James, whose safety can't be guaranteed at the boys' school) discover their sexuality, sneak out to concerts, swoon over a dreamy priest, don't even blink when armed soldiers board their school bus, and look at a community-building event with "the Prods" as a prime chance to find a hook-up ("They're not as fucked-up about sex as we are, you know. They put in the work. They know what they're doing.").

The parental generations, meanwhile, must deal with aggravations ranging from actual abduction and vehicle theft to a ruined night at the movie theater after a "wee evacuation" forces them to miss the end of *The Usual Suspects*.

Favorite episode/moment/iconic line:

This show is full of well-drawn characters, but the best might be Sister Michael, the no-nonsense, eye-rolling, priest-dis-

daining, statue-loving head nun of the girls' school. Her response to a tattletale student reporting a forbidden party: "You will go far in life, Jenny. But you will not be well-liked."

Would you recommend it?

Aye! It's often hilarious. The '90s soundtrack is fun, and the two six-episode seasons go by quickly. Subtitles might be your friend here, at least until the accents and slang become familiar.

Where can we stream it? Netflix.

EMILY CASSEL Editor-in-Chief

What are you binge watching? *Adventure Time*!

What's it about?

It's a cartoon about a boy and a dog named Finn and Jake. They're best buddies who live in a tree house and run around their post-apocalyptic land of Ooo fighting for good and fighting against, among other things, boredom, gender roles, and messed-up relationships. But sometimes they just make breakfast and play video games.

Favorite episode/moment/iconic line:

Jake: "Let's never be stupid again." Finn: "...Wait! Let's always be stupid. Forever!"

Would you recommend it?

I can't recommend it enough! It's a colorful, magical show full of mayhem and friend-ship that's also a good guide for how not to be a shitty person. There's a princess who's also kind of a mad scientist and a vampire queen who plays guitar. Some episodes are silly little one-off madcap adventures but there's also a pretty deep mythology. And it has a perfect theme song.

Where can we stream it?

It's on Hulu. There are 280-plus episodes!

JESSICA ARMBRUSTER

Arts Editor

What are you binge watching? Animal Planet's My Cat From Hell

What's it about?

Feline behaviourist Jackson Galaxy travels the country helping families, roommates, and couples living with pissed-off cats. There are many wonderful zoomin shots of glaring pets while owners speculate why their cat is calculating revenge against them. Most of the time Galaxy works miracles by telling people to install a cat tree, schedule play time, and stop petting their kitties like they're a damn dog.

Favorite episode/moment/iconic line:

All of them! Drink anytime Galaxy is brought to tears from a cat's success. Hiss at the TV anytime someone says they plan to "put the cat down" if the cat can't get it together (seriously though, WTF?).

Would you recommend it?

Yes. Cats are awesome, and it's fun to watch their behavior change when their owners figure things out.

Where can we stream it?

Animal Planet's YouTube account has full episodes from early seasons.

ERIK THOMPSON

Clubs Editor

What are you binge watching?

The debut season of Dispatches From Elsewhere on AMC. It was created by and stars Jason Segel.

What's it about?

Four disparate people living lonely lives in Philadelphia (Segel, Sally Field, Eve Lindley, and Andre Benjamin-aka Outkast's André 3000!) get drawn into a mysterious game. The story takes place throughout Philadelphia, a city I lived in for a while, so it's nice to see familiar sights of places I remember fondly. But it was the illusory, creative elements of the show that ultimately drew me in. There's a dreamlike quality to the narrative, visual effects, and stage sets. Plus, Richard E. Grant is the head of the Jejune Institute, the architect of the game itself. I'll watch anything Richard E. Grant is in. He rules.

Favorite episode/moment/iconic line:

Segel's character, Peter, works at an online streaming company akin to Spotify. After being moved by hearing "Good Vibrations" by the Beach Boys for the first time, he programs the entire system to play that song on everyone's streaming service at the same time. It's a moment of shared joy that ultimately gets him in big trouble at work, but the risk is worth it to a character who is stuck in a life without meaning.

There's also a terrific scene with Lindley, who plays a trans woman named Simone. at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where she works as a docent. That museum was my favorite place in all of Philadelphia (atop the famous Rocky steps), and to be transported briefly back to that tranquil gallery again was a wonderful moment.

Would you recommend it?

Yes. The show is inventive, surprising, and quite moving. Plus, the cast is exceptional. The four actors are as different as can be (I never knew I needed to see the legendary Sally freaking Field and André 3000 sharing scenes with each other, but they are fantastic onscreen together), and the show is an affectionate character study of individuals who don't know how much they need each other. It's also an examination of the collective joy and wonder they draw from the game itself, and how that creative and intellectual release snaps them out of their humdrum lives.

Where can we stream it?

It's currently airing on AMC on Monday nights, with just two episodes left of its inaugural 10-episode season.



SARAH BRUMBLE

Food Editor

What are you binge watching?

Once Cheers lost its luster, which happened mid-second season, my partner and I heel-turned and headed straight for The Wire. (That, right there, probably contains everything a psychologist needs to know about two people.) He's never seen it, but I have. On Easter we watched it for something like seven hours.

What's it about?

Oh. c'mon.

Favorite episode/moment/iconic line:

If I could whistle, I'd mosey down my shitty alley doing my best "Farmer in the Dell." This is probably a bad idea, but since I can't whistle... I can dream.

Would you recommend it?

Duh.

Where can we stream it? HBO.

KEITH HARRIS

Music Editor

What are you binge watching? Deadwood

What's it about?

Roughly a decade after the Civil War, in the storied Black Hills mining town, an ever-growing number of drunken, foulmouthed, self-interested, law-skirting

malcontents (most of them highly fictionalized versions of real-life figures, including Wild Bill Hickok and George Hearst) accidentally create a society out of brothels, saloons, and gambling dens while double-crossing and/or gunning one another down.

Ian McShane as saloon-keeper and pimp Al Swearengen: "In life you have to do a lot of things you don't fucking want to do. Many times, that's what the fuck life is... one vile fucking task after another."



As American society crumbles around you, why not revisit the muck it emerged from? David Milch's show teems with brilliant turns from ace character actors and features the most eloquently profane dialogue in prestige TV history.

Where can we stream it?

It's on HBO, though it's annoyingly not part of the free selection of programming they've made available to non-subscribers for April. 🗰



FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

>> By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): In the future, when the coronavirus crisis has a diminished power to disrupt our lives, I would love for you to have more of the money you need to finance interesting new experiences that help you learn and thrive. Now is a good time to brainstorm about how you might arrange for that to happen. For best results, begin your meditations with vivid fantaseis in which you envision yourself doing those interesting new experiences that will help you learn and thrive.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Renowned Taurus composer Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) completed his first are Brahms (1833-1897) completed his first symphony when he was 43 years old-even though hed started work on it at age 22. Why did it take him so long? One factor was his reverence for Ludwig van Beethoven, the composer who had such a huge impact on the development of classical music. In light of Beethoven's mastery, Brahms felt unworthy. How could any composer add new musical ideas that Beethoven hadrit already created? But after more than two decades, Brahms finally managed to overcome his inhibition. He eventually produced four symphonies and socres of other pieces, and left a major mark on musical history. For you, Taurus, I see the coming months as a phase comparable to the time when Brahms finally built the strength necessary to emerge from the shadow that had inhibited him.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A Gemini friend sent me and three of her other allies a poignant email. "This note is a tender apology to those of you whom I've hurt in the process of hurting myself," she began. "I want you to know that I have been working hard and with great success to eliminate my unconscious tendency to hurt myself. And I am confident this means I will also treat you very well in the future." I received her message with joy and appreciation. Her action was brave and wise. I invite you to consider making a comparable adjustment in the weeks ahead.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The Ojibwe are indigenous people of North America. Professor of Ojibwe studies Anton Treuer writes that in their traditional culture, there have been men who act and dress like women and women who act and dress like men. The former are called ikwekaazo and the latter ikwekaazowag. Both have been "always honored" and "considered to be strong spiritually." Many other Native American groups have had similar arrangements. Transcending traditional gender behavior is not unique to modern Western civilization. With that as inspiration, and in accordance with astrological omens. I invite you to explore any inclinations you might have to be your own unique gender. The time is ripe for experimenting with and deepening your relationship with the constructs of "masculine" and "feminine."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "The history of my stupidity would fill many volumes, wrote Nobel Prize-winning poet Zesalew Milosz. Wowl fla-highly respected genius like him has spawned so much nonsense and ignorance, what about the rest of us? Here's whar I have to say about the subject: Each of us should strive to be at peace with the fact that we are a blend of wisdom and folly. We should be tenderly compassionate toward our failures and weaknesses, and not allow them to overshadow our brilliance and beauty. Now would be a good time for you Leos to cultivate this acceptance and perform this blessing for yourself

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Helen Traubel (1899-1972) was bestknown for her opera career, although she also sang in concerts, nightclubs, and musical theater. But in her autoblography, she confessed, "Opera bored me. "She reminds me of Beorgia O'Keeffe, should preven they're cheaper than models and they don't move." Now of course most of us have to do some things that we don't enjoy; that seems to be a routine part of being human. And since the coronavirus arrived in our midst, you may have been saddled with even more of this burden. But I'm happy to inform you that the coming weeks will be a favorable time to brainstorm about how you could do more of what you love to do once the crisis has abated.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): What's the current state of the relationship between your ego and your soul? Is there an uneasy truce between the ambitious part of you that craves success and recognition and the lyrical part of you that years for rich experiences and deep meaning? Or do those two aspects of you get along pretty well—maybe even love and respect each other? Now is a favorable time to honor your ego and soul equally. Libra-to delight in the activities of both, to give them plenty of room to play and improvise, and to encourage them to collaborate in ways that will further your well-rounded happiness and health.

SCRPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Scorpio author Voltaire (1694-1778) was a crusader for freedom of thought and civil liberties, as well as a key player in the Enlightenment. He was very prolific. In addition to producing 2,000 books and pamphlets, his carried on such voluminous written correspondences with so many interesting people that his collected letters fill 98 volumes. Would you consider getting inspired by Voltaire's approach to cross-pollination? According to my calculations, the next phase of the coronavirus crisis will be a favorable time for you to intensify your communication via the written word.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): I like musician David Byrne's views on what constitutes meaningful work. It's not just the tasks you do to earn money. Sex is a job, "he says. "Growing up is a job. School is a job. Going to parties is a job. Religion is a job. Being creative is a job." In other words, all the activities he names, to be done well, require a commitment to excellence and an attention to detail. They are worthy of your diligent efforts, strenuous exertion, and creative struggle. I encourage you to meditate on these thoughts during the coming weeks. Identify what jobs you want to get better at and are willing to work hard on and would like to enjoy even more than you already do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): At its best and brightest, Capricornian love isn't frivolous or flighty. It's not shallow or sloppy or slapdash. When Capricornian love is at its highest potency, it's rigorous, thoughtful, and full-bodded, it benefits anyone who's involved with it. I bring this up because I expect the coming weeks to be a Bolden Age of Capricornian Love-a time when you will have the inspiration and intelligence necessary to lift your own experience of love to a higher octave.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): I hope you're not one of those Aquarians who regards stability and security as boring. I hope you don't have an unconscious predilection for keeping yourself in a permanent state of nervous uncertainty. If you do suffer from those bad habits, you'll be hard-pressed to stick to them in the coming weeks. That's because the cosmic energies will be working to settle you down into a steady groove. If you cooperate, you will naturally enhance your ability to be well-anchored, calmly steadfast, and at home in your life. Please don't resist this opportunity.

X PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): I foresee the likelihood that you'll be having brilliant and evocative conversations with yourself in the coming weeks. Your heart and your head may become almost blissful as they discuss how best to create a dynamic new kind of harmony. Your left side and right side will declare a truce, no longer wrestling each other for supremacy, and they may even join forces to conjure up unprecedented collaborations. The little voices in your head that speak for the past will find common ground with the little voices in your head that speak for the future—and as a result you may be inspired to formulate a fresh master plan that appeals to both.

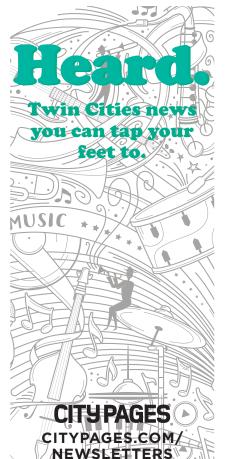
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ODD FELLOWS

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY

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- They often get hit with viruses, for short Drug maker ___ Lilly
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Last Week's Answer

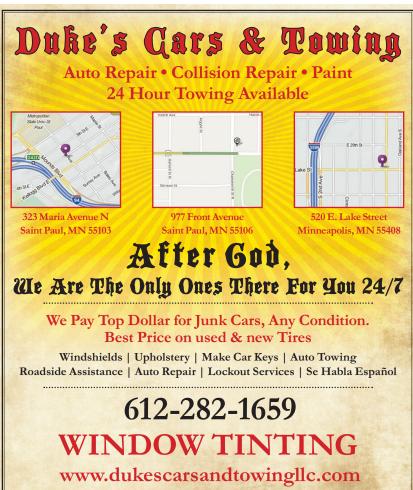
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Big Moves

My sweet, chubby wife repulses me and I don't know what to do

was raised in a religious home and didn't lose my virginity until the embarrassing age of 26. I was told to save it for marriage and did, until I met the woman who would become my wife at a party. We had a one-night stand, and we've been together now for eight years. My wife is the

sweetest, most thoughtful person I've ever met and I love spending time with her, but I have absolutely no sexual attraction to her. I'm tall and slim and she's short and heavy. Like an idiot, I believed it's what's inside that matters. I've all but stopped initiating sex and on the rare occasion when we do make love I make her come twice while I'm struggling to get off.

I know it's shallow, but what do I do when seeing

my wife naked sends me into an anxiety attack? When I'm helping with laundry, I get bummed because there's nothing in her wardrobe I find attractive on her. Even when I look at old pictures of us I get depressed because I know this is the best she's going to look. It doesn't help that she finds me handsome and regularly tells me so.

It's gotten to the point where I find any woman who isn't my wife desirable (including, but not limited to, her family and friends). But she has no interest in an open relationship or threesome because she prefers having me "all to herself." I don't want to ask her to change because she's happy with herself, but I'm becoming increasingly resentful. What do I do? How do I tell her? And is there any way I can come out of this a good husband?

IN THE SHALLOWS

Dan Savage

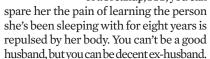
I was so relieved to get all the way to end of your letter without learning you had kids. Because that means I can advise you-with a clear conscience-to file for divorce and move the fuck out as soon as possible. Not for your own sake, ITS, but for your wife's. She deserves better.

You say you're growing resentful, and I hope your resentment is directed at all the people who victimized you. Your wife isn't one of them. It's your parents you should resent, as well as the sex-phobic bullshit artists out there masquerading as "faith leaders." You should be angry with yourself. While I know from personal experience how a religious upbringing can put the zap

on a kid's head, you were a grown-ass man when you met your wife. You couldn't have lost your virginity in a one-night stand if you hadn't already rejected nearly everything you'd been taught about sex. If you were capable of having premarital sex, you were capable of refraining from marrying the

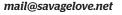
first person you slept with.

Your wife will want to know why you're leaving-ofcourse-butyou're not going to tell her the real reason. You're going to make something up. You want kids and she doesn't (or vice-versa), you married too young (which is true), you have unresolved childhood issues (and don't we all). While you won't be able to spare your wife the pain of a breakup, ITS, you can



Your wife's body isn't repulsive; she's just not someone you're attracted to. But while "tall and slim" are associated with conventional attractiveness, ITS, not everyone's into that. People are attracted to all body types, and there are people who are utterly indifferent to bodies. Your wife deserves the chance to find someone who's sincerely attracted to her. Being alone would be better than spending decades with someone who recoils from her touch.

For the record: What's on the inside does count.If you met a woman who was your idea of hot, and over time she revealed herself to be an asshole, your attraction would wither. What you want-not what you'll get, ITS, but the best you can hope for-is some combo of hot on the outside (subjective and personal) and good on the inside. And the longer you're with someone, the more important good on the inside becomes. Time is a motherfucking meat grinder and it makes hamburger out of us all. If you prioritize your idea of hot over all, you run the very real risk of spending decades with a person who has aged out of hot and was never nice.



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